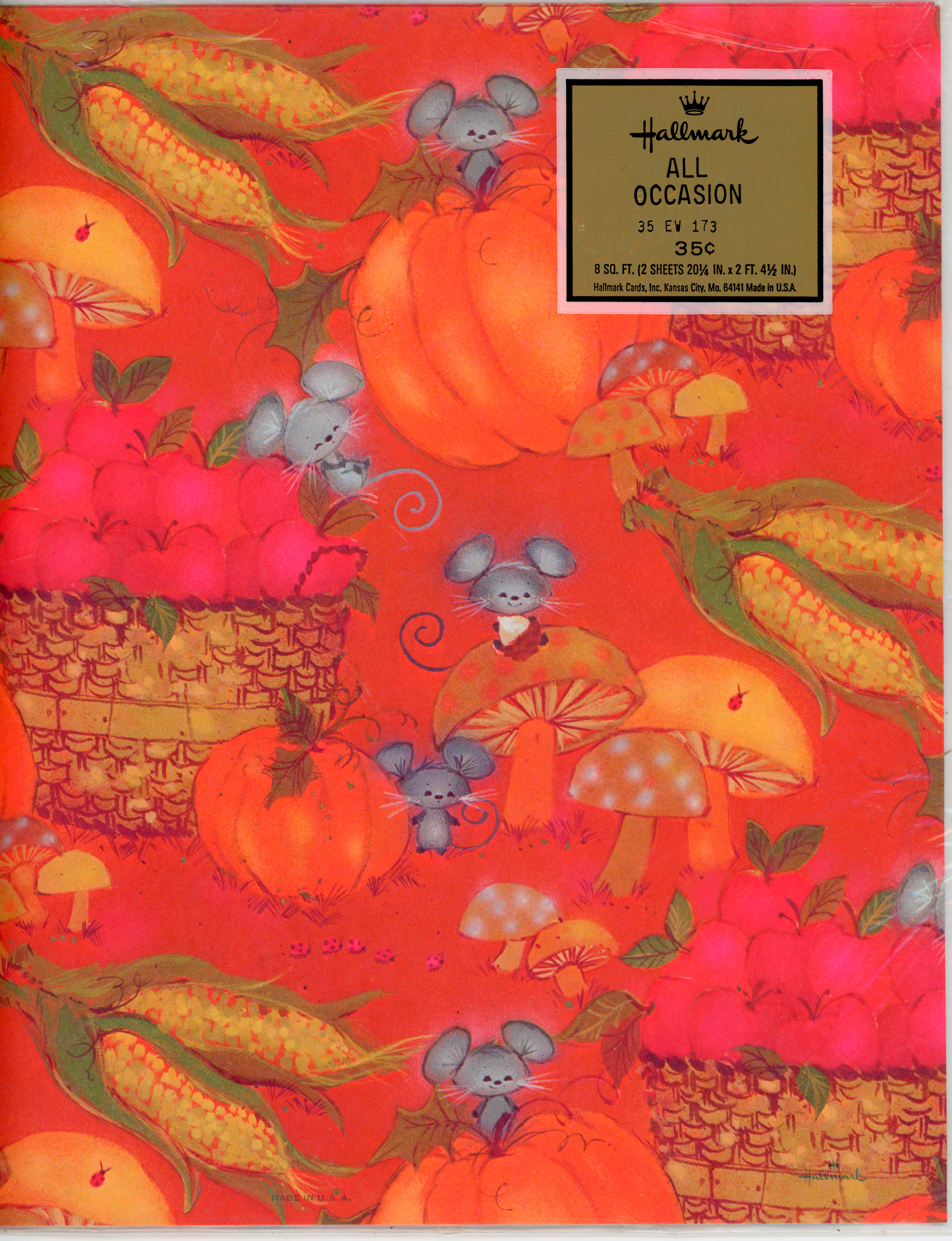
A Forgotten Box

Jeffrey Hunt
July 24 2026

Some things are set aside and forgotten, only to be discovered years later.

This box of wrapping paper came from my grandparents, Blanche and Tim Dear's house on Leadbetter Road in Camas—the first brick house on the right as you turned toward the lake, long gone today. Tucked away in the attic, it survived for decades, untouched.

There are nearly seventy different wrapping paper patterns in the collection, most dating from the early 1950s through the mid-1960s, with a few that appear to be older. They are small pieces of everyday history that somehow survived.


MADE IN U.S.A.
Hallmark

Hallmark

ALL
OCCASION

35 EW 173

35¢

8 SQ. FT. (2 SHEETS 20¼ IN. x 2 FT. 4½ IN.)

Hallmark Cards, Inc. Kansas City, Mo. 64141 Made in U.S.A.

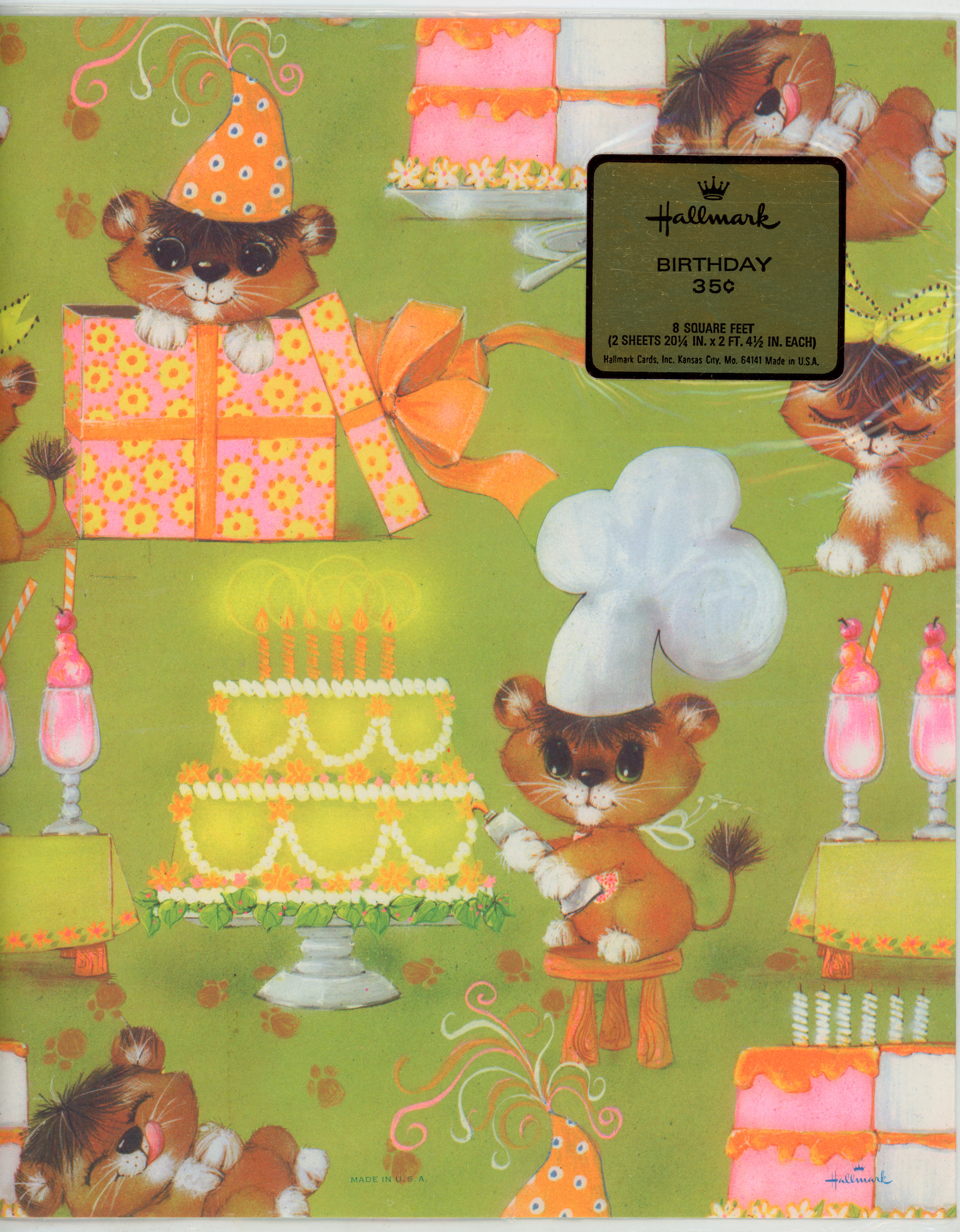
Hallmark

ALL OCCASION

25 EW 481

2 SHEETS 20¼" X 28½" 25¢

Hallmark Cards Inc. Kansas City, Mo. Made in U.S.A.

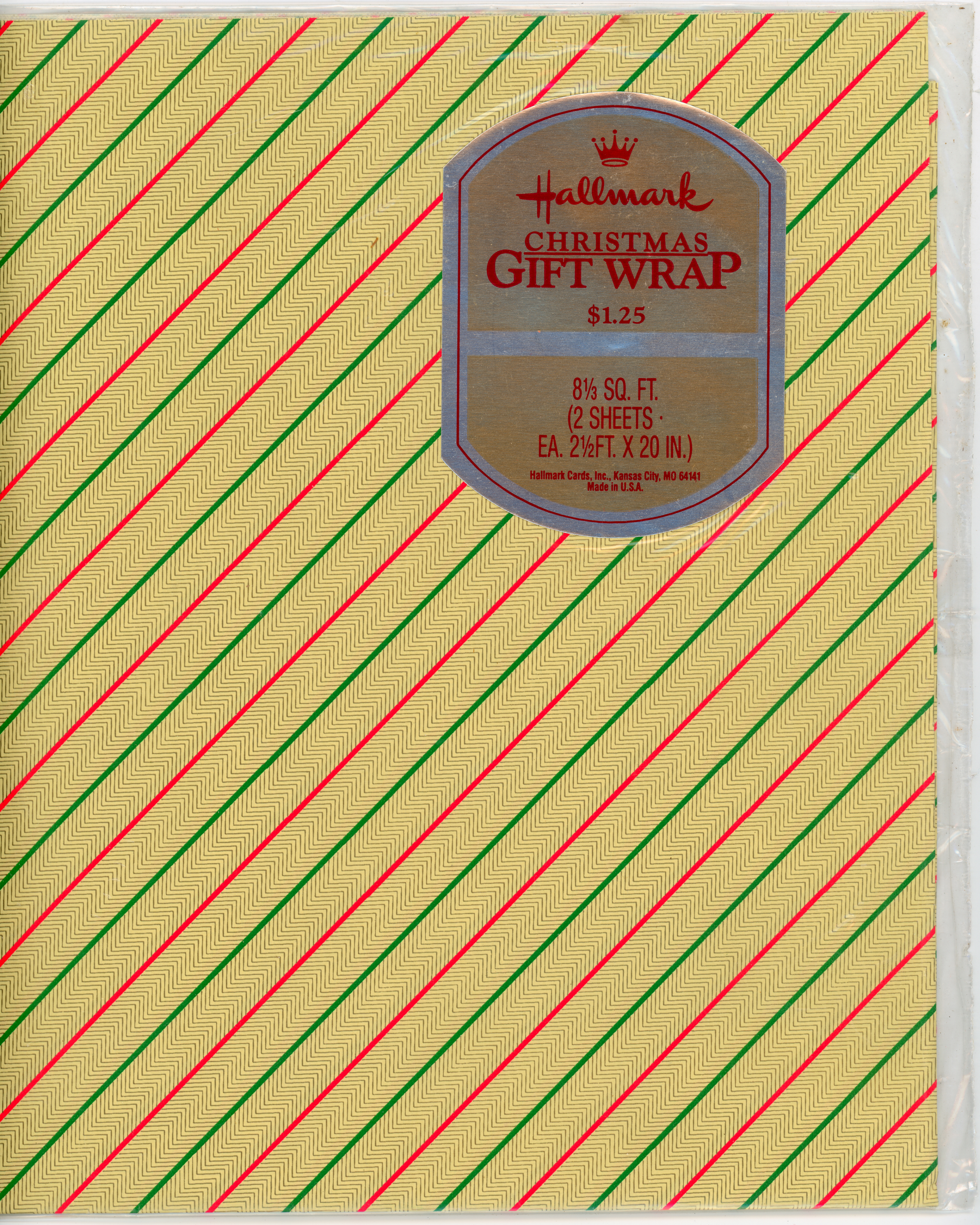


Hallmark

BIRTHDAY
35¢

8 SQUARE FEET
(2 SHEETS 20¼ IN. x 2 FT. 4½ IN. EACH)
Hallmark Cards, Inc. Kansas City, Mo. 64141 Made in U.S.A.

MADE IN U.S.A.
Hallmark



Hallmark

CHRISTMAS
GIFT WRAP

$1.25

8⅓ SQ. FT.
(2 SHEETS ·
EA. 2½FT. X 20 IN.)

Hallmark Cards, Inc., Kansas City, MO 64141
Made in U.S.A.

BIRTHDAY!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
All the animals, MacDonald too- say, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY," just for you!
All the Chickens say, "Chick-chick," and that means HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Donald
Farm
All the Brown Cows say, "Moo, moo," and that means HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Pigs say,

RUST CRAFT

Birthday Juvenile

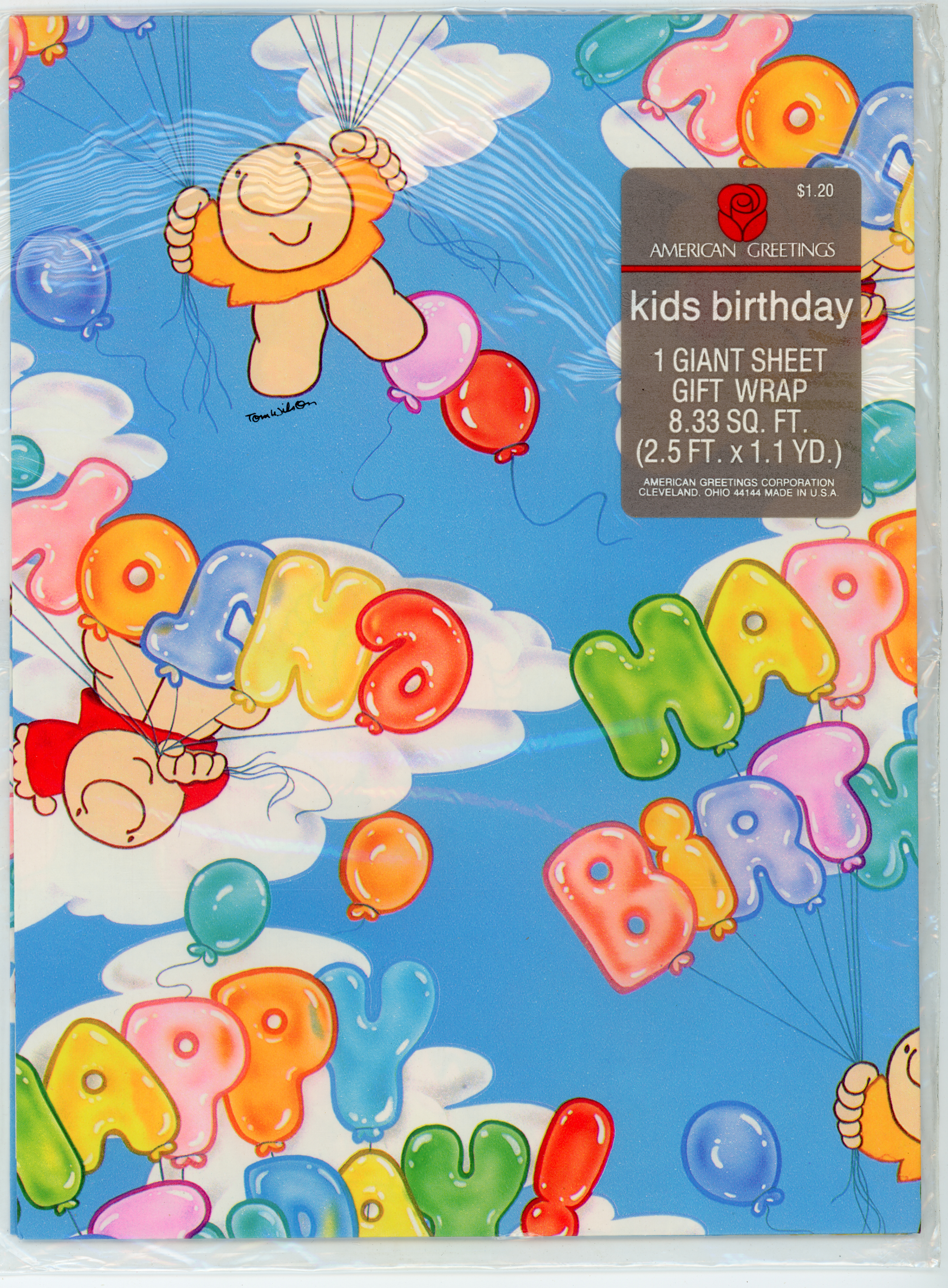
2 SHEETS 29 X 20

25AW2396 — 4

ASK FOR MATCHING GIFT CARD AND RIBBON

25¢

ASK FOR HARMONIZING GIFT CARD & RIBBON



AMERICAN GREETINGS

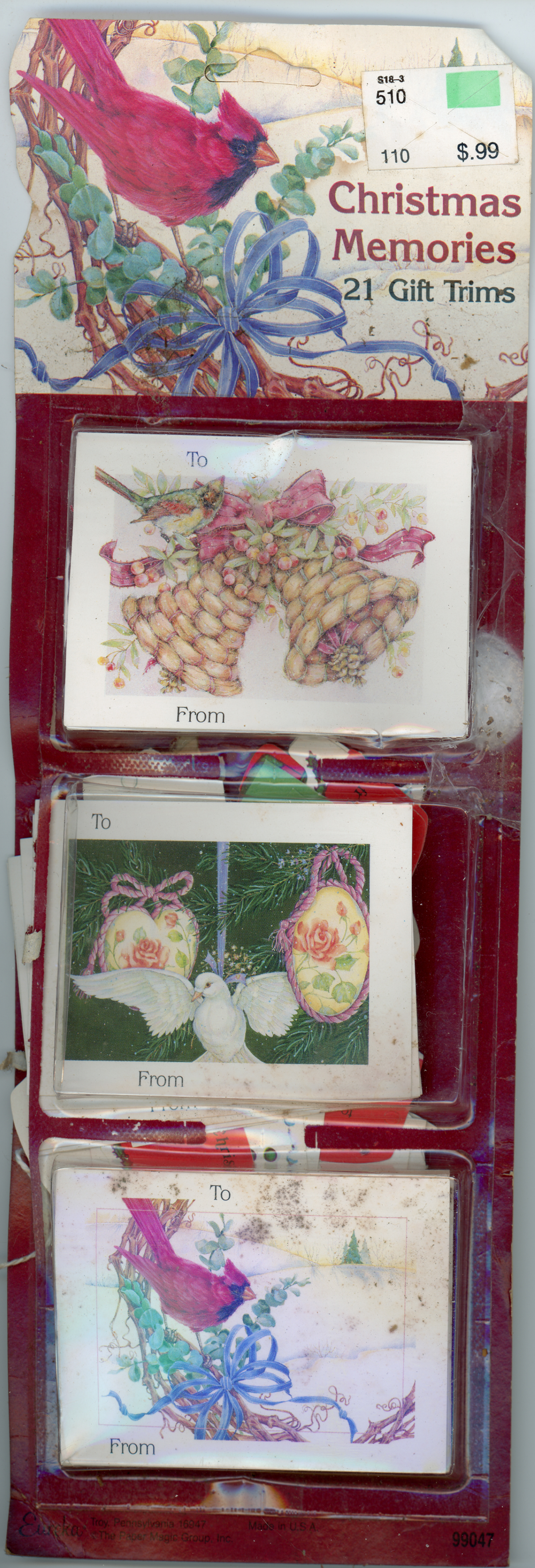
$1.20

kids birthday

1 GIANT SHEET
GIFT WRAP
8.33 SQ. FT.
(2.5 FT. x 1.1 YD.)

AMERICAN GREETINGS CORPORATION
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44144 MADE IN U.S.A.

Best Wishes
For You
Hello!
For You
Best Wishes
Best Wishes
For You


S18–3
510
110
$.99
Christmas
Memories
21 Gift Trims
To
From
To
From
To
From
Eureka
Troy, Pennsylvania 16947
©The Paper Magic Group, Inc.
Made in U.S.A.
99047

Merry Christmas
to
from

to
from
from
from

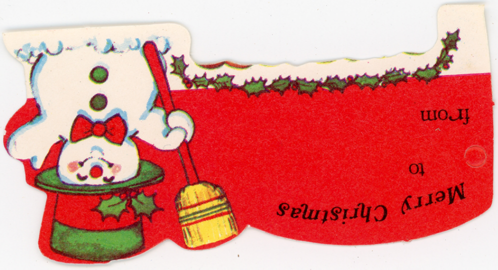
to
from

to
from
to
from

Merry Christmas
to
from

Merry Christmas
to
from

to
from


Merry Christmas
to
from

MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO
FROM

BIRTHDAY
PPY
RTHDAY
NO GIRLS
ALLOWED!
HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
MADE IN U.S.A.
Hallmark

Everyday History

As I worked through the box, one sheet at a time, I realized I wasn't simply scanning old wrapping paper. I was preserving small pieces of everyday life.

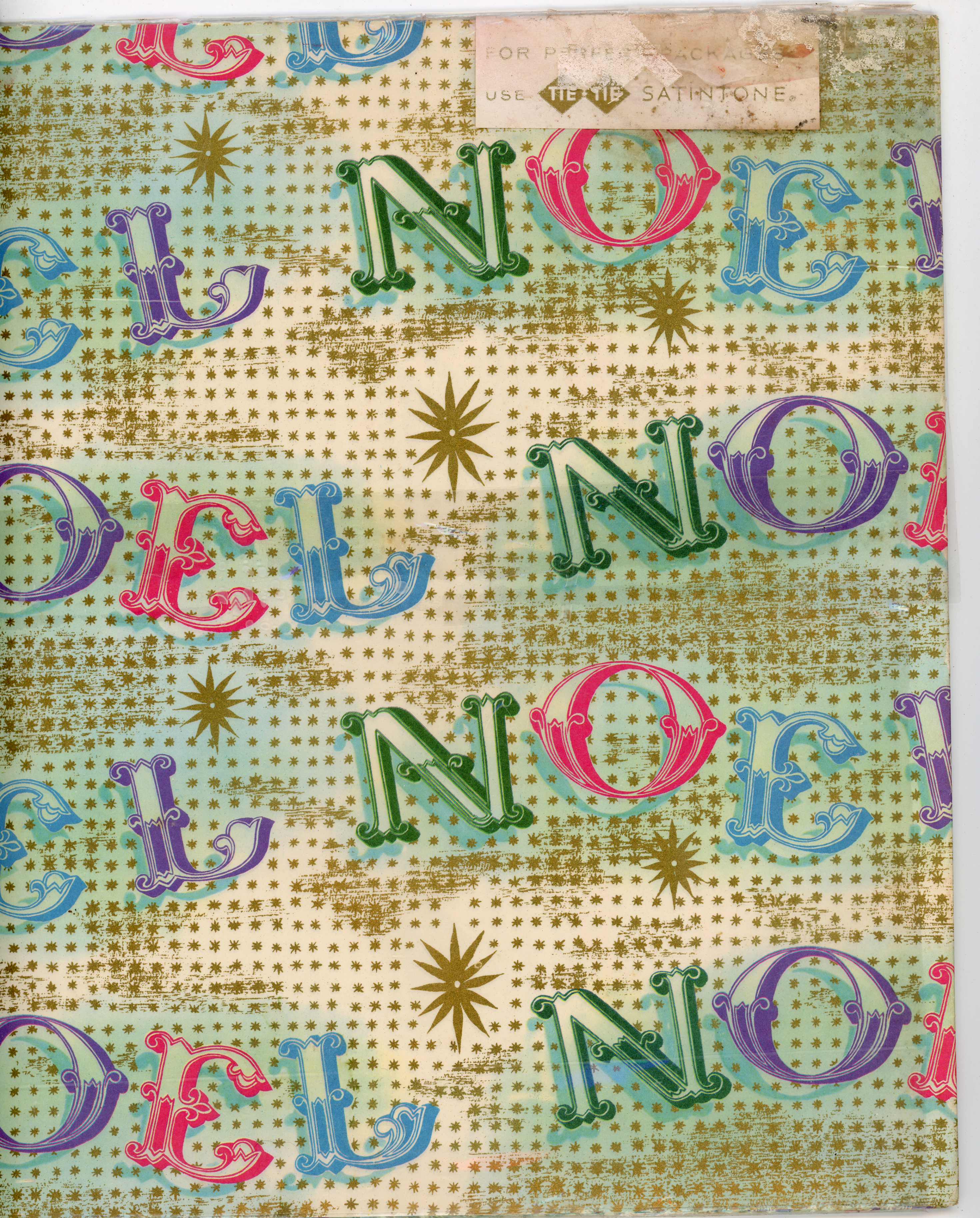
Most of these designs were never meant to last. They were wrapped around gifts, admired for a moment, then torn open and discarded. Somehow this box escaped that fate.

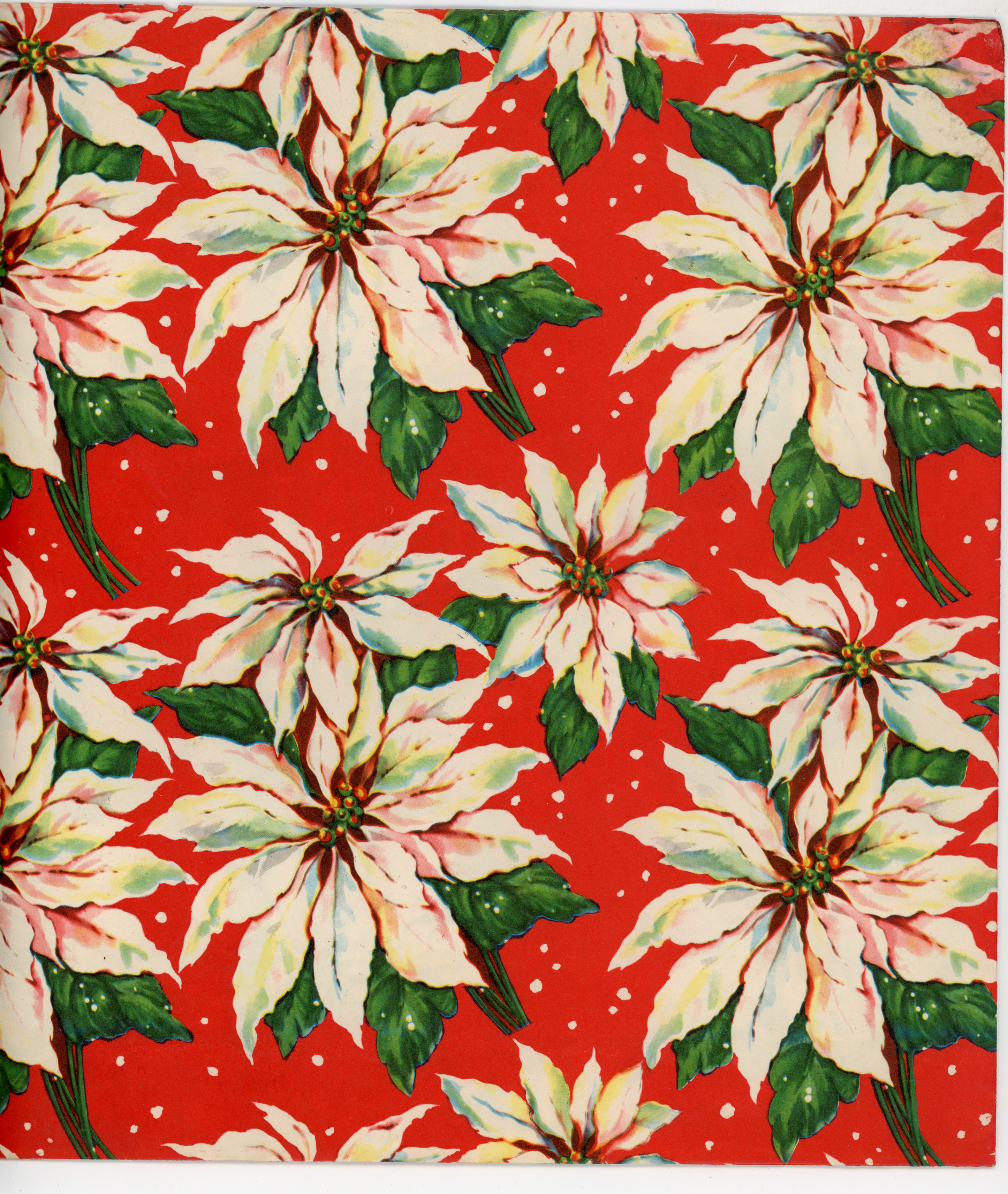
Today these patterns offer a glimpse of the colors, illustrations, and graphic design of another era. More importantly, they remind us that even the most ordinary objects can become part of a family's history—and that sometimes the smallest things are worth saving.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
ZZZZZZZZZZZZ

Hallmark

MADE IN U.S.A.


FOR PERFECT PACKAGES
USE TIE TIE SATINTONE®



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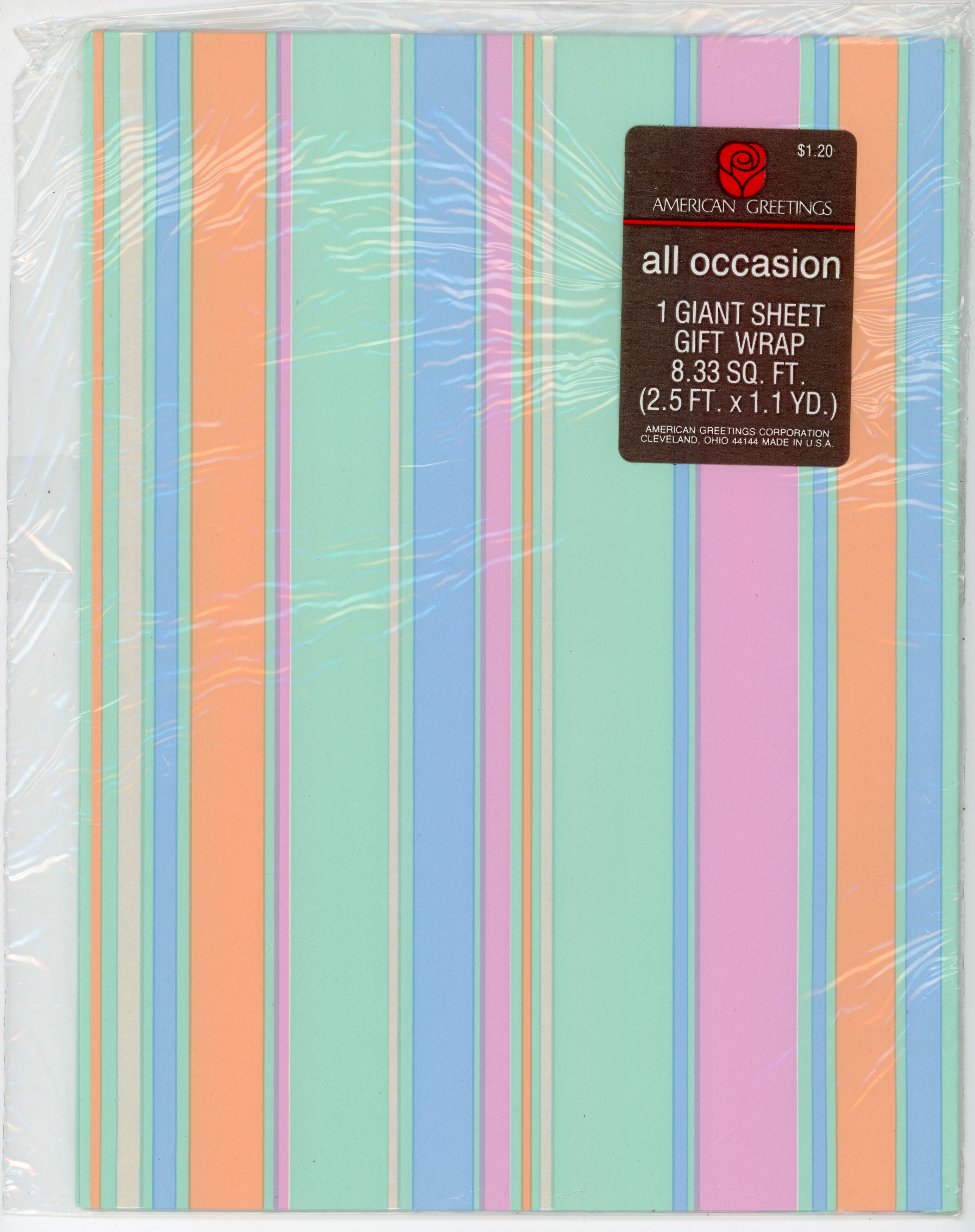
MADE IN U.S.A.



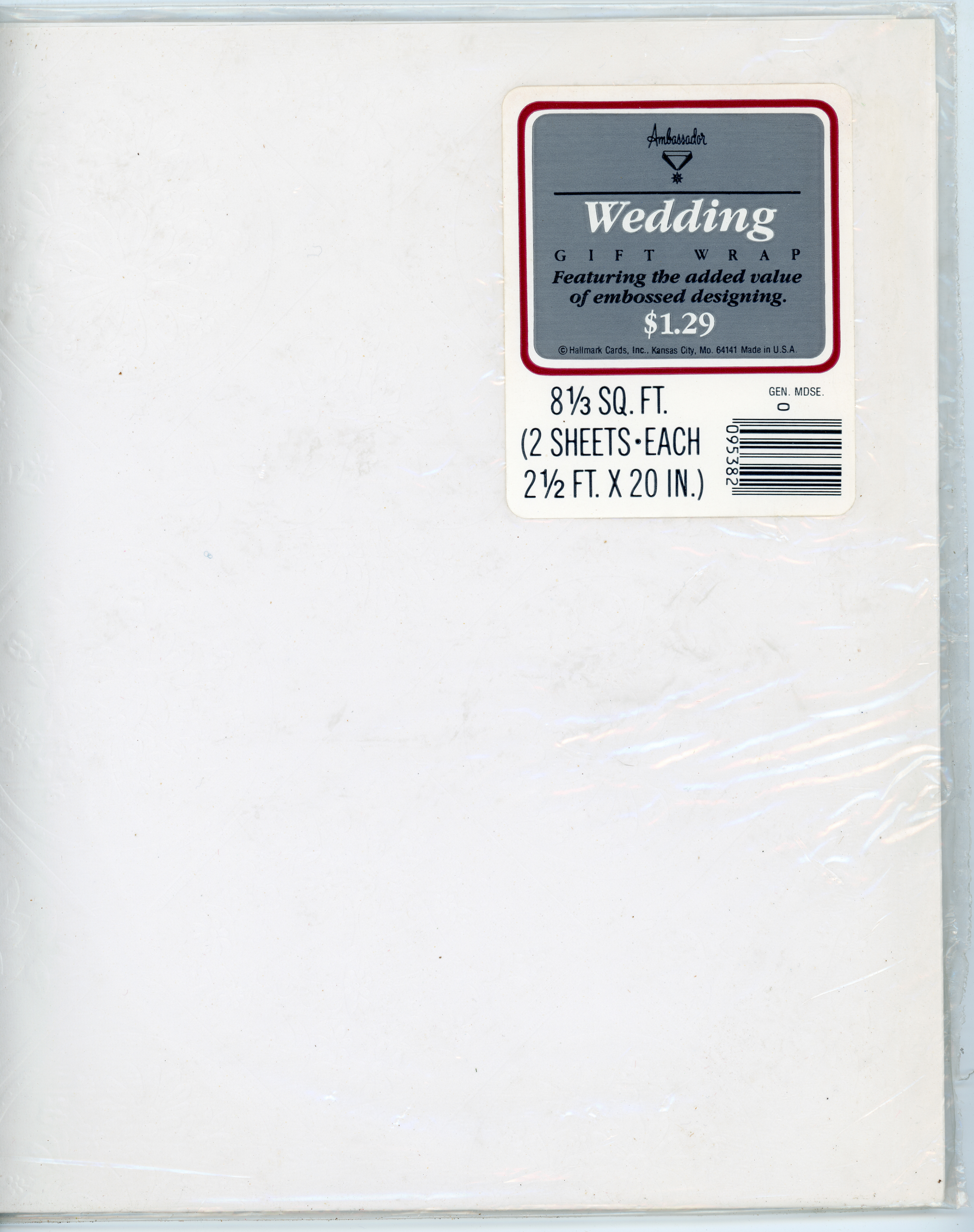
$1.20

AMERICAN GREETINGS

all occasion

1 GIANT SHEET
GIFT WRAP
8.33 SQ. FT.
(2.5 FT. x 1.1 YD.)

AMERICAN GREETINGS CORPORATION
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44144 MADE IN U.S.A.



Ambassador

Wedding

GIFT WRAP

Featuring the added value of embossed designing.

$1.29

© Hallmark Cards, Inc., Kansas City, Mo. 64141 Made in U.S.A.

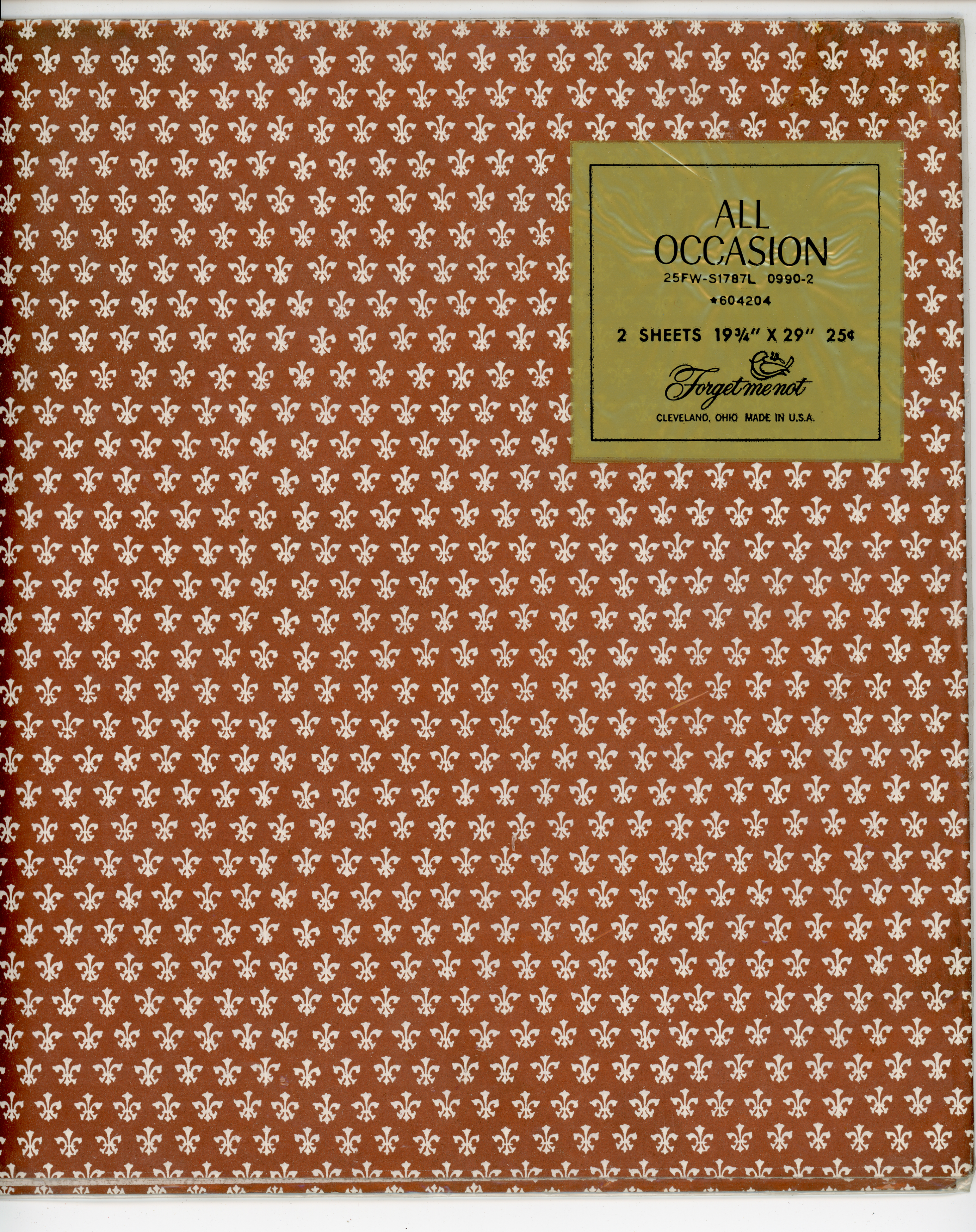
8⅓ SQ. FT.
(2 SHEETS • EACH
2½ FT. X 20 IN.)

GEN. MDSE.
0

095382

Happy Birthday

HAPPY
DAY



ALL OCCASION

25FW-S1787L 0990-2

★604204

2 SHEETS 19¾" X 29" 25¢

Forgetmenot

CLEVELAND, OHIO MADE IN U.S.A.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
HAPPY

A Tenth Birthday

One sheet with a globe and sailing ship brought back a very specific memory.

Oddly enough, I remember it from my tenth birthday. At the time, it must have been considered “big boy” wrapping paper. Why that particular design stayed with me while so many others faded away, I couldn’t say.

Most of these papers don’t remind me of one specific gift or occasion. Instead, they bring back birthdays, Christmas mornings, family gatherings, and all the little moments that become part of a family’s story. Sometimes the smallest things are what carry our memories the longest.

BIRTHDAY
HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
APPY
THDAY

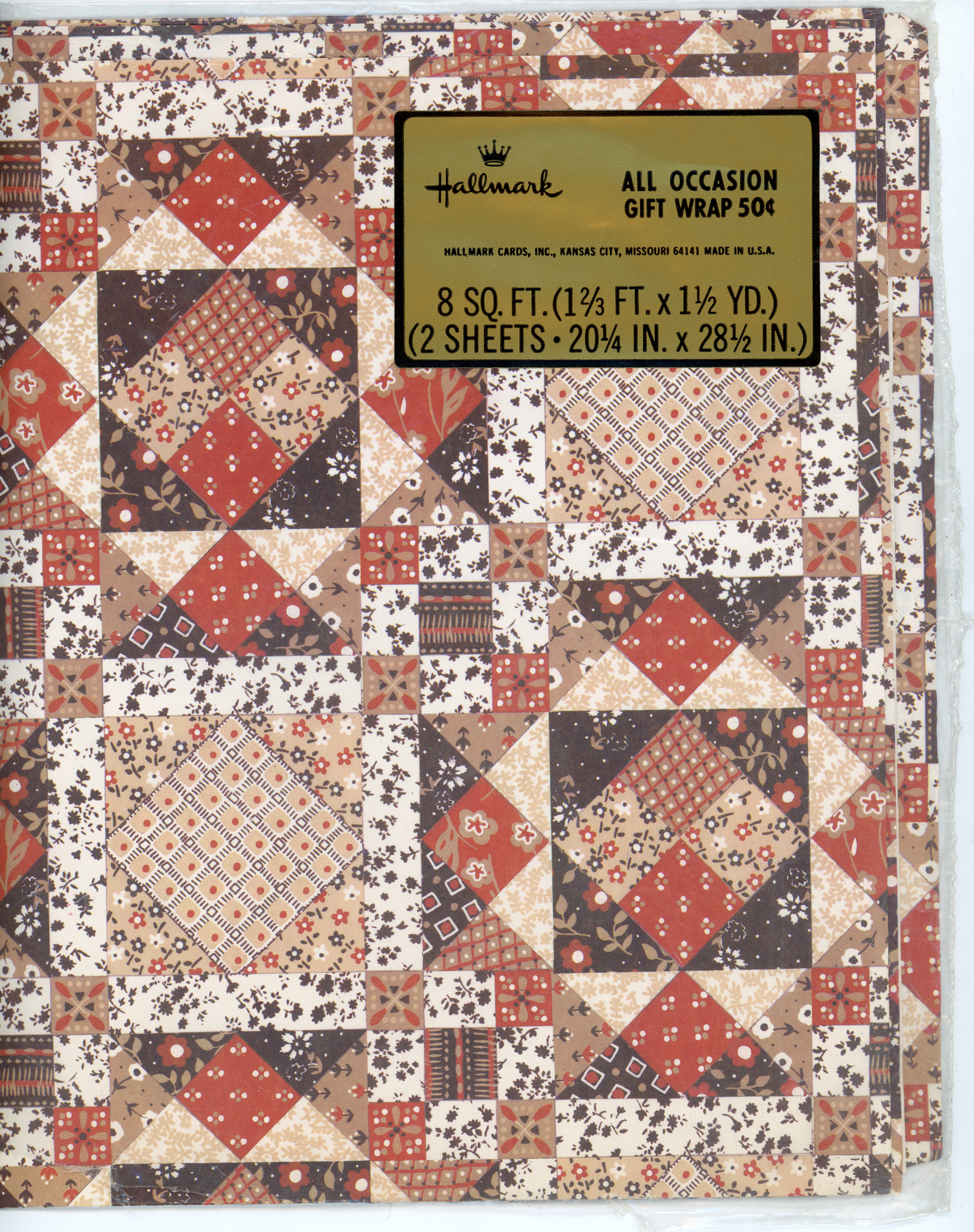
MADE IN U.S.A.
Hallmark

purple
white
yellow
brown
orange
red
purple
blue
green
red
orange
yellow
green
blue
happy birthday
green
red
orange
yellow
green
blue
purple
white
yellow
brown
orange
red
purple
blue
y birthday
happy

PASTRY

PASTRY

Love is the heart of Valentine's Day.
Love is the heart of Valentine's Day.



Hallmark

ALL OCCASION
GIFT WRAP 50¢

HALLMARK CARDS, INC., KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64141 MADE IN U.S.A.

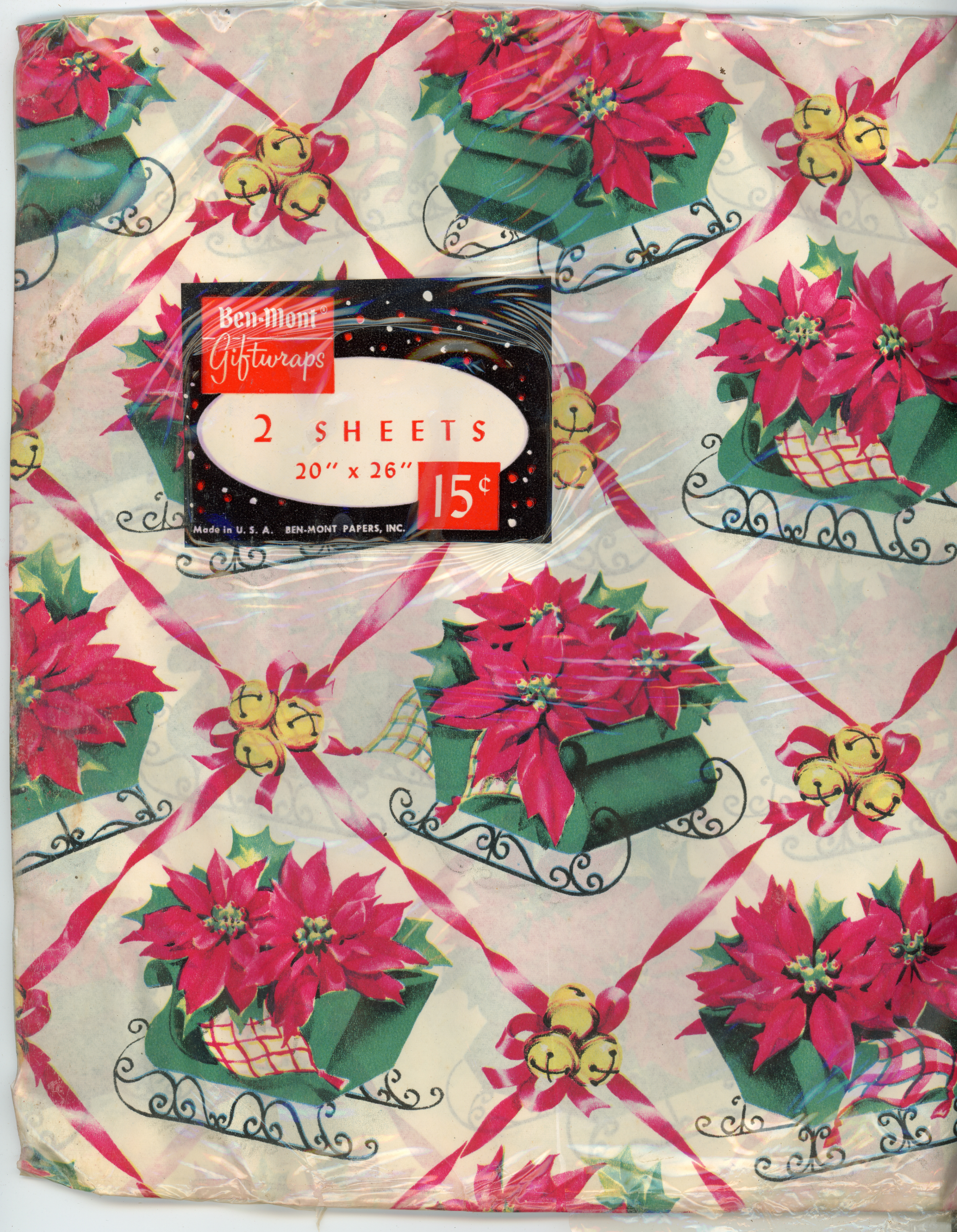
8 SQ. FT. (1⅔ FT. x 1½ YD.)
(2 SHEETS • 20¼ IN. x 28½ IN.)

Where the Paper Came From

Looking through these papers is a little like walking into Sprouse-Reitz or one of the neighborhood drugstores of sixty or seventy years ago.

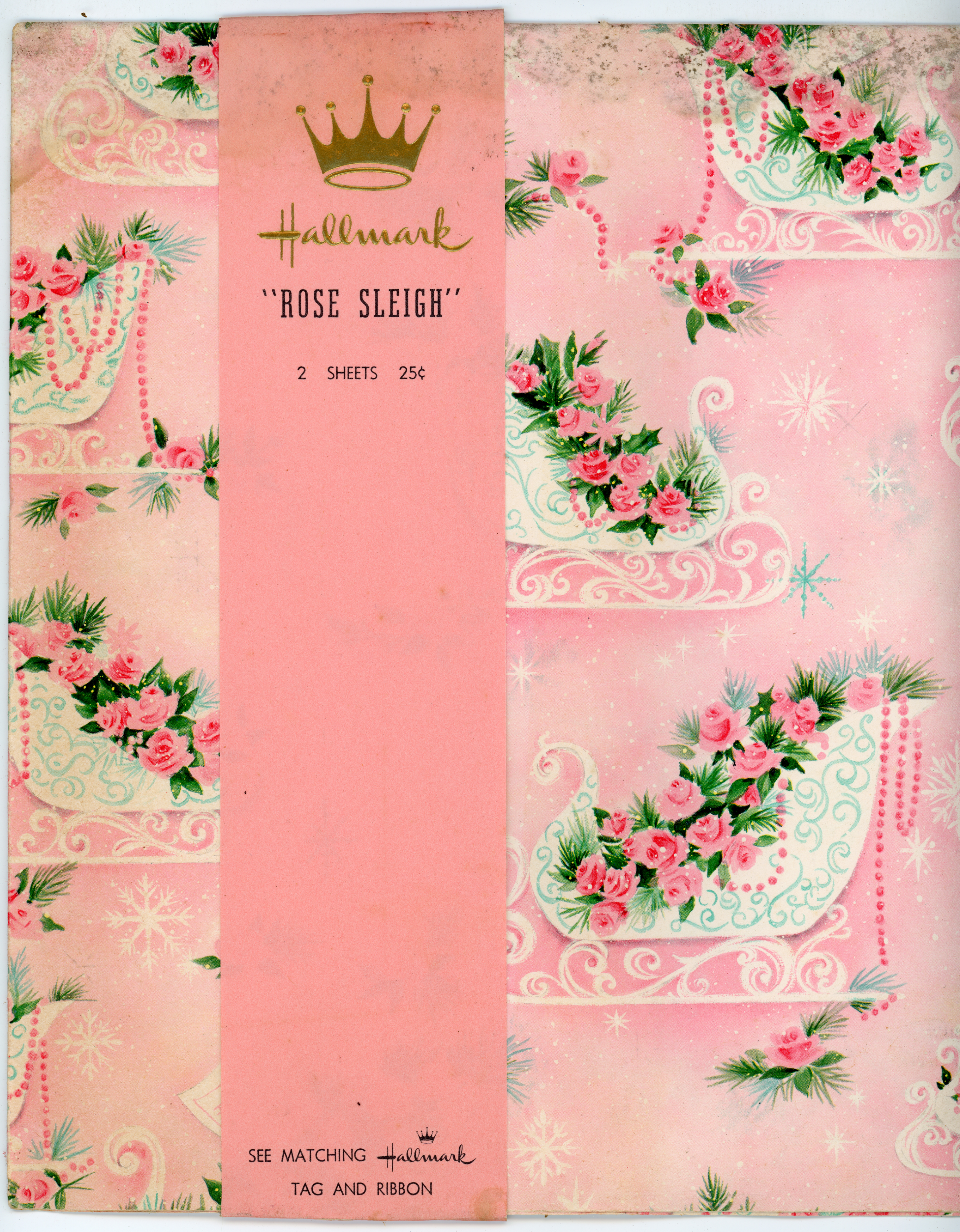
I can still picture the racks of wrapping paper beside the greeting cards and ribbon. Most of these were probably purchased somewhere in the Camas-Washougal area, chosen for birthdays, Christmases, anniversaries, and family celebrations that have long since passed.

Back then, wrapping paper wasn’t simply something to tear off and throw away. Choosing the paper was part of the gift itself.


Ben-Mont®
Giftwraps
2 SHEETS
20" x 26"
15¢
Made in U. S. A. BEN-MONT PAPERS, INC.

Best Wishes
Merry Christmas
Season's Greetings
Happy New Year

NOEL
Hallmark

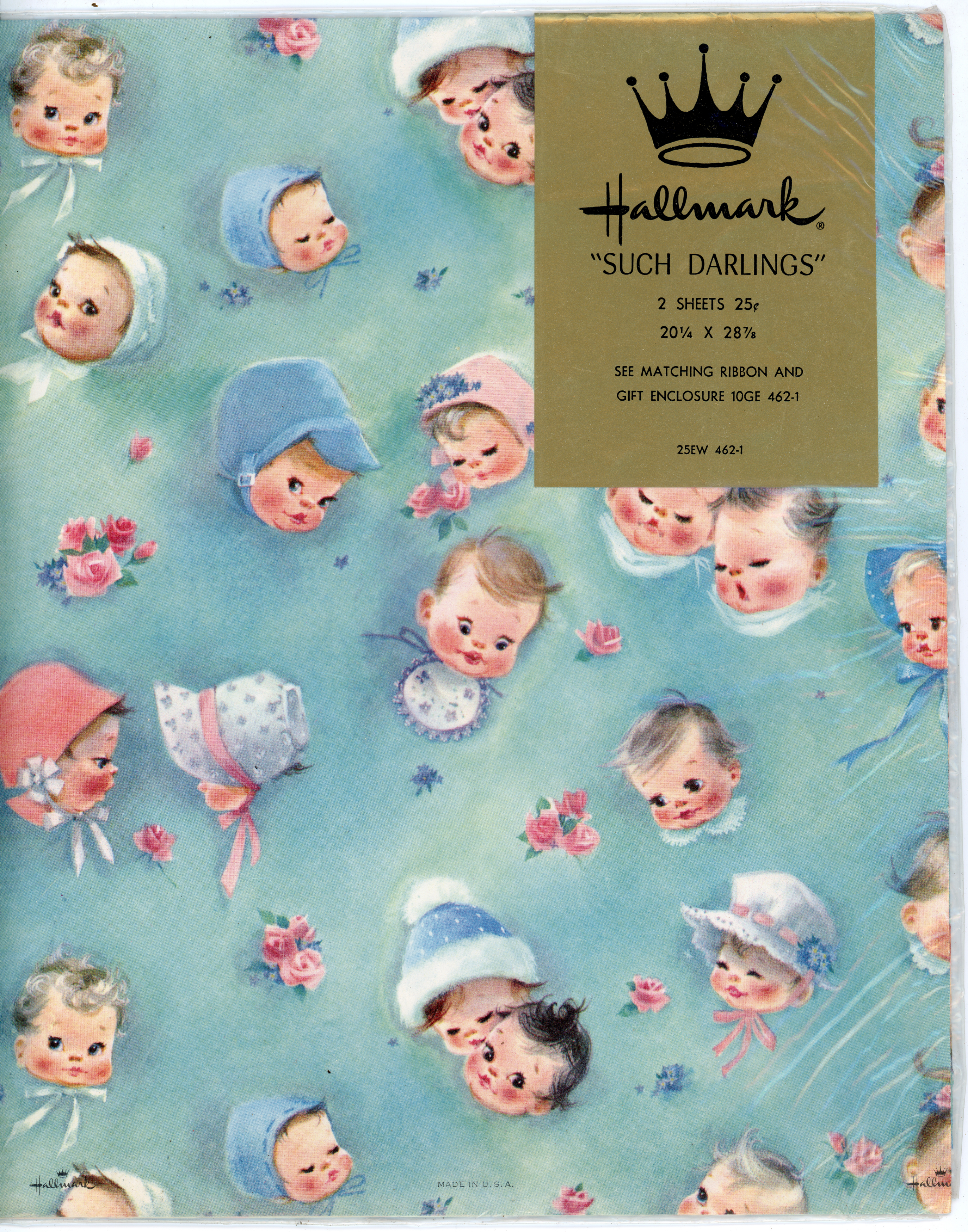


Hallmark

"ROSE SLEIGH"

2 SHEETS 25¢

SEE MATCHING Hallmark
TAG AND RIBBON



Hallmark®

"SUCH DARLINGS"

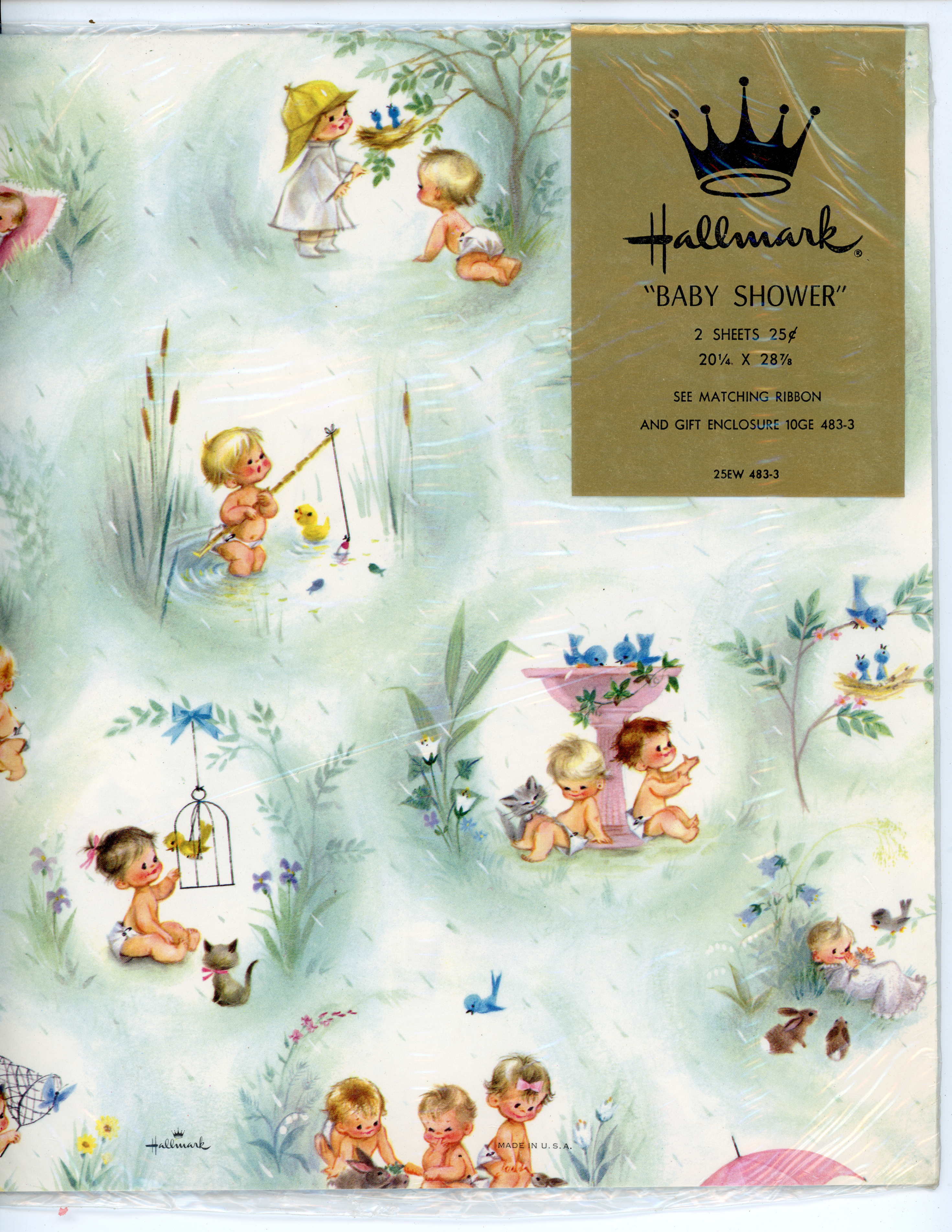
2 SHEETS 25¢

20¼ X 28⅞

SEE MATCHING RIBBON AND
GIFT ENCLOSURE 10GE 462-1

25EW 462-1

Hallmark
MADE IN U.S.A.
Hallm



Hallmark®

"BABY SHOWER"

2 SHEETS 25¢

20¼ X 28⅞

SEE MATCHING RIBBON

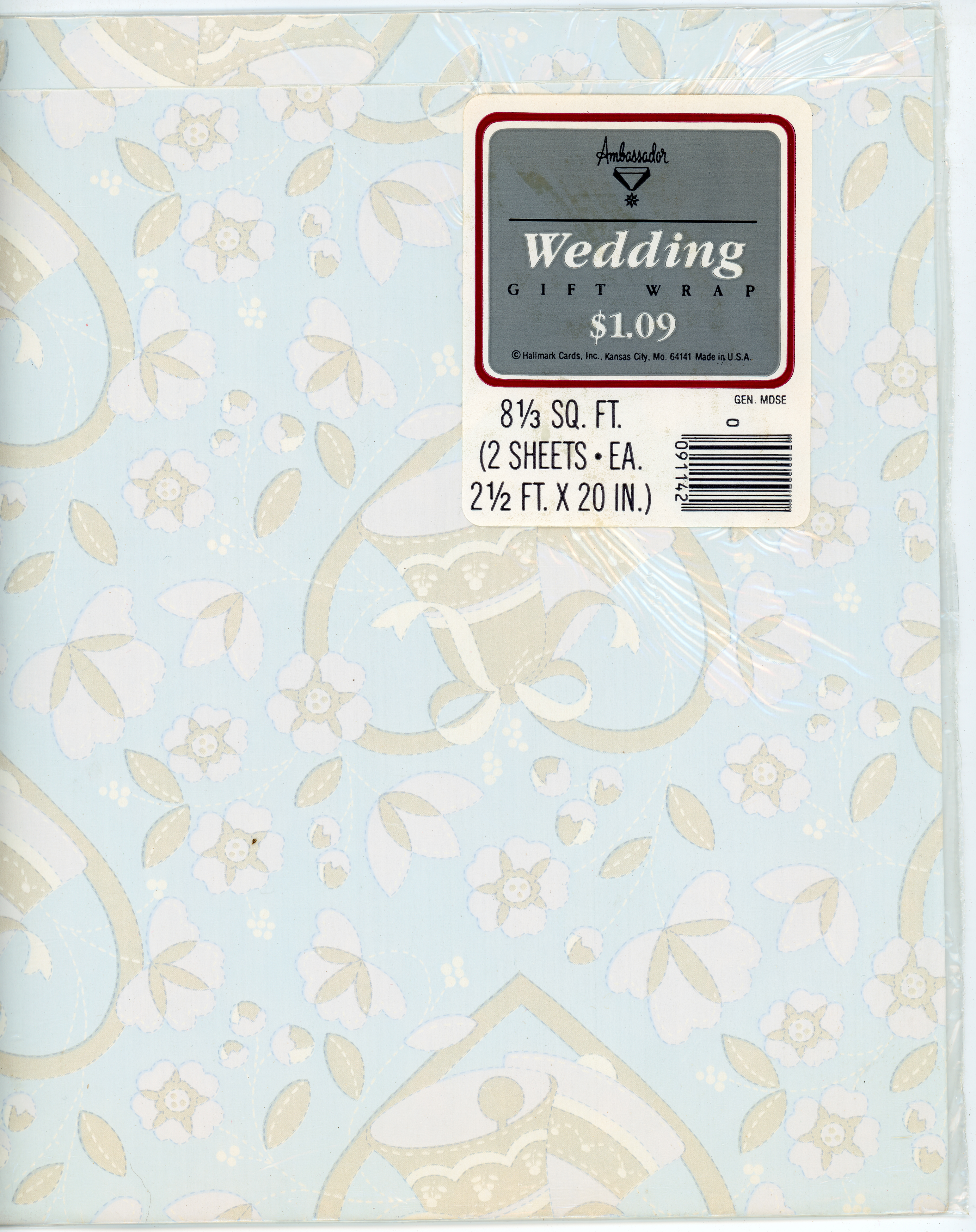
AND GIFT ENCLOSURE 10GE 483-3

25EW 483-3

Hallmark
MADE IN U.S.A.

Hallmark

MADE IN U.S.A.



Ambassador

Wedding

GIFT WRAP

$1.09

© Hallmark Cards, Inc., Kansas City, Mo. 64141 Made in U.S.A.

GEN. MDSE

8⅓ SQ. FT.
(2 SHEETS • EA.
2½ FT. X 20 IN.)

0
091142

Hallmark
Chapel Vows
2 SHEETS 25¢
Hallmark

Hallmark

Hallmark

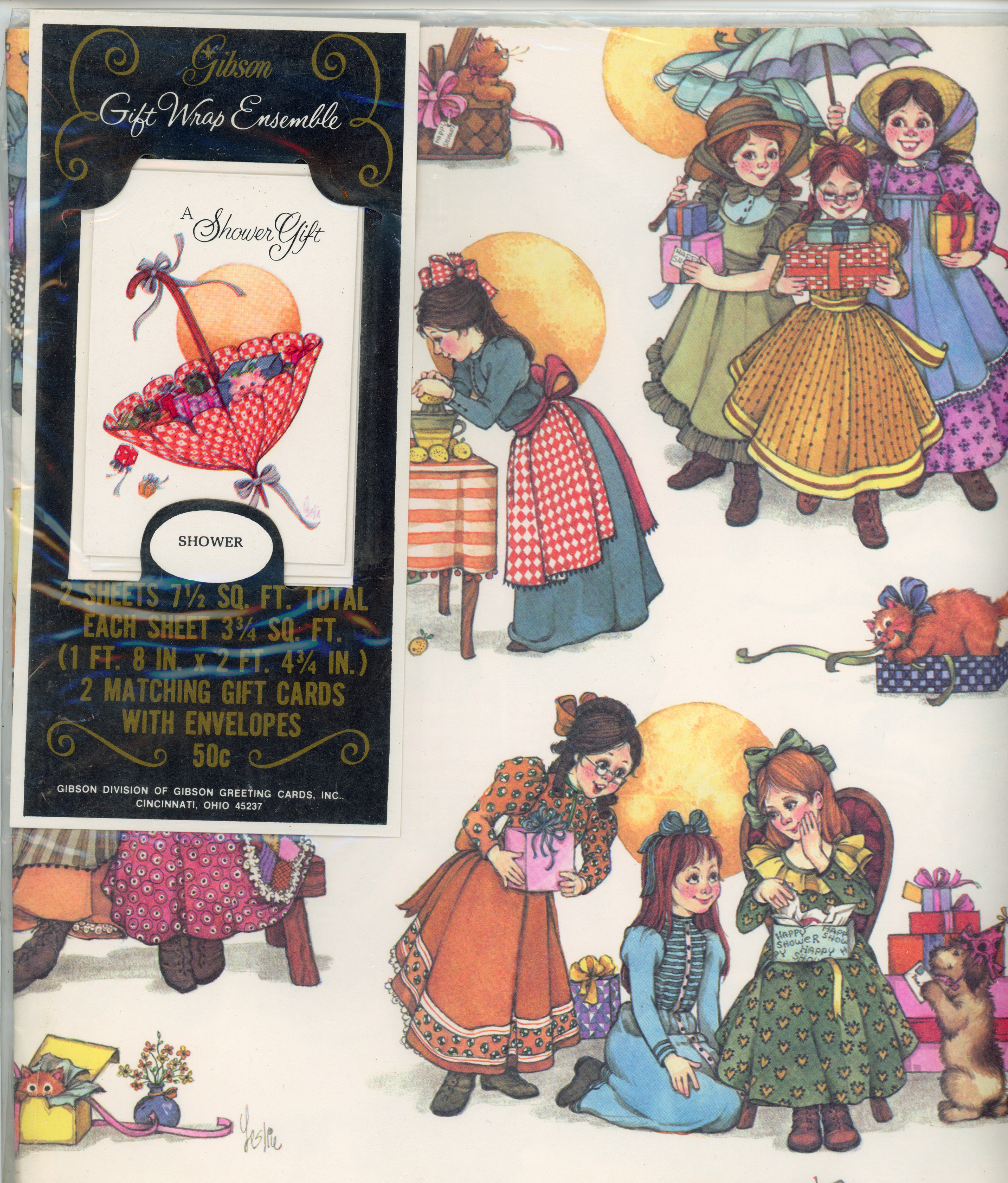
BABY
GIFT WRAP

Wraps 2 shirt Boxes! $1.35

8⅓ SQ. FT.
(2 SHEETS
EA. 2½ FT.
X 20 IN.)

0 70000 01030 6

Hallmark Cards, Inc.
K.C., Mo. 64141
Made in U.S.A.


A Shower Gift
SHOWER
HAPPY SHOWER
Leslie

Gibson

Gift Wrap Ensemble

2 SHEETS 7½ SQ. FT. TOTAL
EACH SHEET 3¾ SQ. FT.
(1 FT. 8 IN. x 2 FT. 4¾ IN.)
2 MATCHING GIFT CARDS
WITH ENVELOPES
50c

GIBSON DIVISION OF GIBSON GREETING CARDS, INC.,
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45237

Hallmark

Includes Bow and Gift Card $1.35

MINI READYWRAP

Just right for wrapping perfume, ties, gloves...any small gift!

2$\frac{1}{12}$ SQ. FT. (1 SHEET · 1$\frac{2}{3}$ FT. X 15 IN.)

TO REMOVE BOW,
TEAR HERE

Hallmark Cards, Inc., K.C., MO 64141
Made in U.S.A.
26-748-5056

Just for You

The Chicken House

One pattern brought back an unexpected memory.

The chickens reminded me of what our family simply called the Chicken House. The room behind the garage was covered from floor to ceiling with bright red, white, and black chicken wallpaper. As a child, it seemed wonderfully over the top.

Seeing this wrapping paper brought that room back almost instantly. It is strange how something as ordinary as a pattern on paper can hold a memory for decades, waiting for the right moment to return.